

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/683,031

Examiner

Sandra M. Nolan

Applicant(s)

SMIRNOVA ET AL

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 10 June 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13, 28 and 29.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

S. M. Nolan

SANDRA M. NOLAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. The base claims of the application are claims 1, 28 and 29. They can be summarized as follows:

Claim 1 covers a method for making an extruded thin-walled article comprising:

- providing a polymer binder system comprising a substantially homogeneous solution of the thermoplastic elastomer binder and an organic solvent that is a liquid at room temperature and is a solvent for the glassy segment in the elastomer binder,
- adding a ceramic or metal powder to the binder system to make a mixture,
- evaporating the solvent from the mixture, and
- extruding the remainder from a die to make the article.

Claim 28 covers a method for making an extruded thin-walled article comprising:

- providing a polymer binder system comprising a substantially homogeneous solution of the thermoplastic elastomer binder and an organic solvent that is a liquid at room temperature and is a solvent for the glassy segment in the elastomer binder,
- adding a ceramic or metal powder to the binder system to make a mixture at a temperature of about 50°C,
- evaporating the solvent from the mixture, and
- extruding the remainder from a die to make the article.

Claim 29 covers a method for making an extruded thin-walled article comprising:

- providing a polymer binder system comprising a substantially homogeneous solution of the thermoplastic elastomer binder and an organic solvent that is a liquid at room temperature and is a solvent for the glassy segment in the elastomer binder,
- adding a ceramic or metal powder to the binder system to make a mixture wherein the solvent reduces the viscosity of the binder system to allow mixing of the binder and the powder at temperatures below 100°C,
- evaporating the solvent from the mixture, and
- extruding the remainder from a die to make the article.

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3. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest methods having all of the features of claims 1, 28 or 29.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be addressed to Sandra M. Nolan, at telephone number 571/272-1495. She can normally be reached Monday through Thursday, from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm, Eastern Time. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, her supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached at 571/272-1498. The fax number for patent application documents is 703/872-9306.



S. M. Nolan
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09683031(20040826)

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